

# The Times-Dispatch

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1912.

## TOO VALUABLE TO LOSE.

Refiner and Eggleston—these are the only luminous names on the roll of those who have held the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, created more than four decades ago. To the former has been given the honorable title "the Architect of the Virginia Public School System," while the latter may deservedly be termed "the Builder of the Virginia Public School System," certainly in its remodeled and reconstructed form. It is because of the splendid structure that Mr. Eggleston has reared in the place of a loose framework of impotency and inefficiency that he contemplated resignation to accept the position of National Supervisor of Rural Schools evokes respectful protest from the entire Commonwealth. He cannot be replaced; if he were to go, there would be none left in Virginia who could bend his bow.

"Probably no educational development in any State of the Union is more remarkable than that which is represented in the old Commonwealth of Virginia," said President Fritchett, in the 1911 report of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. That declaration was predicated almost wholly upon what has actually been achieved since Mr. Eggleston became, in 1895, Superintendent of Public Instruction. In 1895 there were ten four-year high schools in Virginia; in 1912, there are more than a hundred such schools in the State. There has been a tenfold increase in six years in this particular branch of the public school system. In 1895-6 but \$100,000 was spent by local authorities for high school support; in 1910-11 between \$200,000 and \$400,000 was spent for that purpose. In 1907-8 only \$45,000 was spent in the entire State upon high school buildings. In the five succeeding years, the average annual expenditure was more than \$500,000. The figures mean that the colleges of the State now require for admission something like the same entrance standards that are required in other States; that in almost every county there has been established a high school to serve as a center of local educational stimulus, and to provide an opportunity for ambitious youth who would secure a good education. The educational authority above quoted declares that the Old Dominion has taken an "enormous step" toward a consistent and efficient system of instruction, reaching from the State university to the secondary and elementary schools, and that the advance here in entrance requirements and public school buildings is probably more noteworthy than in any other State.

Of course, entire credit for the educational achievements of the last decade cannot be given to Mr. Eggleston, but his wonderful constructive endeavors in other directions overlap any discounting. Since he went into office school terms have been lengthened, the salaries of teachers have been increased, modern school buildings have been erected, school taxes have been raised, teachers' pensions have begun, large amounts of money have been collected for the schools from private resources, the aid of outside educational organizations and philanthropic agencies has been secured, inefficient schools have been consolidated into efficient schools, the standards for the qualifications of teachers and for school work have been elevated. Moreover, Mr. Eggleston has contributed largely to the betterment of rural life in Virginia. He initiated and directed demonstration work in the schools. He introduced the boys' corn clubs, the school fairs and domestic science work. He was responsible for the establishment of manual training in the schools. He has greatly strengthened the State Teachers' Association, and caused the school trustees and division superintendents' sections to be added to it. In his supervision of the schools he has put backbone and brain into the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. The enemies that he made in doing it are the enemies of the people's progress. He has been accused of dictatorialness, but it was because he had the good courage to do his duty. The revitalization of an educational system necessitates some measure of amputation, and the excision of members is not accomplished without protest.

None is more loth to see Mr. Eggleston leave the educational service of his State than The Times-Dispatch, and none is more willing to do everything possible to retain him in his present position as the head of our public school system. It is understood that one of the considerations which tempts him to leave Virginia is that his work here is so arduous and the strain so severe. If relief can come to him through increased compensation and through the enlargement of his staff, the people of Virginia will take care that he shall receive such relief. When they consider this man and the things that he has done, they

must see that the disaster to our educational system that would be invited by his departure to that some competent politician who is an incompetent educator might secure the office because of his political sagacity. The Superintendent of Public Instruction should be an expert educator, chosen by civil service methods, and not because of his facility and persuasiveness upon the hustings; when chosen, he should remain in office as long as he efficiently discharges its duties.

## GOLD BRICKS AND EFFICIENCY.

Have the people of Richmond bought a \$25,000 gold brick? Their chief aim in electing the Administrative Board was efficiency. The people are paying \$25,000 a year for efficiency and honesty. The very first act of the new board proves that the people have not gotten efficiency. They have not gotten a board whose standard is efficiency, nor one that makes efficiency the test of its appointments; its standard is personal politics, and its standard of appointments on the same plane. Therefore, the members of this board must go a long way in honesty to make up to the community its lost money and its lost opportunity for a better government. It will take much to repay Richmond for being tied to a system foredoomed to failure.

Mr. Folkes has published a statement that shows he does not understand what efficiency means. Mr. Whitte and Mr. Hirschberg, both so eager for publicity and so lavish of promises in September, now have nothing to say to the people who elected them. They meet with silence the charge of inefficiency.

But Richmond will not forever remain content with inefficiency. The people will wake up to the fact that they pay the bills. They will realize that this is not a question of Mr. Beck's recommendation, or Mr. Butler's defense, but a pure question of what it costs the tax-payer out of his own pocket to support inefficiency. Richmond will not always be content to deal in gold bricks. She will demand the service she pays for.

## JUDGE ARCHER A. PHLEGAR.

The Virginia bar loses through the death of Judge Archer A. Phlegar, of Christiansburg, one of its strongest and ablest members. He possessed a legal mind that brought him to high place among the eminent lawyers of the South. He was a keen, clear reasoner, a master of the law. Never eager for public position, he nevertheless rendered his State valuable public service as legislator and private citizen. As a member of the General Assembly, following the last Constitutional Convention, he aided materially in the framing and adoption of statutes demanded by the new organic law. His last contribution to the State was a pure elections bill, presented at the General Assembly of 1912, but not passed. The measure was drawn with uncommon skill, and had it been enacted, into law it would have greatly reduced the number of bribe-givers and bribe-takers in elections and helped to wipe out the shameful condition of corrupt election practices that exists in Virginia. Had his service upon the bench been of reasonable duration he would undoubtedly have left in his decisions a monument to his learning in the law and his powers of reason.

## "AND THE GREATEST OF THESE—"

Here is something to put life into your Christmas charity. Get one of the sweet-faced sisterhood of Visiting Nurses to take you to a home that will have no Christmas unless somebody's heart is big enough to remember the poor and forsaken. Just look at what you see, and then go and let love open your purse strings. It will make Christmas really Christ's birthday.

One such trip on Friday brought the visitor and his guide to a tumble-down cabin beside an ash-dump above a sewer. In one room were cluttered five negro children, from two to eleven years old. There were also two beds, a stove and a sickly smell. A little girl with chills and fever lay on one bed. Her mattress was one layer of an old dirty counterpane upon sagging springs. Her covering was one tattered quilt. A broken window-pane let in the cold evening air. The small fire in the cook-stove was made from fragments of fuel picked from the refuse on the nearby dump. When that gave out there would be no fire. One small boy had on a single garment of a pair of old overalls. The day before he had been without any save an apron tied around him. A baby of two was eating a piece of raw sweet potato. That was the food. The mother had deserted these children. The father was sawing wood for enough to keep them alive. An old woman in the room above did what she could for them.

The above is not newspaper fiction. It is cold fact from first-hand observation in Richmond last Friday. There are hundreds of similar cases. You had better earn your Christmas by helping some one who needs it as these children of God need it. Don't let the taste of a raw sweet potato spoil your Christmas dinner. A loaf of bread, a piece of meat, one stick of candy, will make Christmas for desolation. Remember that the greatest of the virtues is charity, for charity means love at work.

## THE NEW COUNCIL PLAN.

The aim of any plan for reorganizing the work of the City Council should be simplicity and directness of action. The fewer the committees into which legislation can be sidetracked and delayed, the better for Richmond. The loose red-tape and complicated procedure about public business, the quicker the results in accomplished

work. The more information and enlightenment the branches of the Council can get while acting as committees of the whole, without referring important investigations to subcommittees for tedious meetings and long-winded reports that are not understood by a mere reading before the larger body, the more truly representative of the community interest will the new Council become.

All the real machinery necessary is an Ordinance Committee, a Finance Committee, an Entertainment Committee and a Committee of Public Works. Everything else can be referred directly to the Council itself. Big matters of public policy and constructive legislation ought to be treated in the large, not in the small. Instead of a subcommittee getting all the information, the whole Council should get it. Its meetings should be frequent enough to handle such business directly. All of the petty routine and time-wasting committee meetings ought to be taken away from the Council under the new system. Otherwise, we are spending \$25,000 on a board to small purpose.

Hence, what is really expected of the Council is initiative. It can get busy to help Richmond grow. It can forget politics in statesmanship and enjoy the sensation. It can, for example, get down to brass tacks on the gas price question and find out, from actual investigation of local conditions and comparison with conditions in other cities, how much ought to be charged for gas. Incidentally, it might find out for its constituents why so many poor people are complaining that the gas they get at the present rate is so inadequate an illuminant.

The new Council should be like a town meeting on a small scale. It should be a way for the people of Richmond to find out what to do in improving living conditions in their city. The actual doing can be entrusted to others. Therefore, what is important for the new Council system is not the number of committees, but the spirit in which they work. Get that right and the machinery will create itself.

## LITERATURE IN ADVERTISEMENTS.

Now are the halcyon days for the ad-writers. To tell a whole nation what it ought to buy for Christmas presents, and to impress the super-fervid fitness of this or that brand, is calling forth literary gems not found even in the "best sellers." Read the ads. If you want to read the real American poetry. Ponder upon what can be said about sugar cookies if you want to have your imagination wrought upon and your hungry lips stirred to liquid anticipation. There is a certain wafer about which some genius can write odes more melodious than those of Keats. He can use fragile and delicate and savory and tasty and a host of other pleasant words until the swooning senses wonder why the gods were ever content with the mere pot-liquor and corn-bread of nectar and ambrosia and did not feast on this incarnation of sugary dawn and misty moonlight. Under the spell of these confectionery poems, eating becomes a ritual and indigestion loses all its terrors.

The tobacco publicist is not far behind the cake man. Why not smoke when the Billy pipe blows sucrose from all sorrow and balm for every grief? The sting has been taken out of the soothing weed. It will not burn the tongue, fret the nerves, go out unexpectedly, or leave a scent in the parlor curtains. It is cheap at the price, and the price is so low as to be laughable. If you don't believe it, look at the jolly soul in the picture and be converted. Why worry about your debts, your love affairs or political when a tin of bliss awaits at the corner drug store?

But the real artist in words is the Shakespeare who writes about automobiles. He has the edge on the rest, because he has names that hunt and hover and don't have to mean anything. What witchery in the splendid syllables of carburetor! What idyllic in the hint of Turkish upholstery! What mystery in the mere phrase, "a rain-vision wind-shield!" What incantation in a "full-floating rear axle!" Is it strange people mortgage their homes to buy something that sounds Homeric and never gets a puncture on paper?

There is a tremendous lot of creative brains put into modern advertising. It is an art as truly as architecture or spellbinding. It has the prime requisite for great English, the desire to convince somebody of something. It is not written to amuse or instruct. It is written for selling. Its success is proved by the hundreds of millions paid for space each year.

Is Governor Bleane opposed to compulsory education in South Carolina because he might be sent to school?

Have you gotten your 1913 license to live from J. P. Morgan?

It is a good thing the Administrative Board does not have to make Woodrow Wilson's Cabinet appointments.

What dinner diplomacy is this England is guilty of? She feeds the peace envoys the celebrated Mansion House turtle soup and then expects them to settle their internal troubles.

Judging from Mr. Bryan's tactful silence, we think he has the most important qualifications for Secretary of State.

Some Governors will soon begin to feel that every time anybody says, "I beg your pardon," they will have to reply politely, "Granted."

The Santa Claus we met on the street to-day bears a marvelous resemblance to a sign painter we knew once.

## On the Spur of the Moment.

By Roy K. Moulton.

From the Hickeyville Clarion.  
"Pop" Wilson bought a new set of cultivator teeth three weeks ago last Wednesday. The Clarion hopes he won't swelter these like he did his own set at the grange picnic last August while trying to get away with a quarter section of Grandma Jordan's mince pie.

There was to be a magic lantern show at the opy house last night, but the ladies Aid got next and put the lid on. There is such a thing as carrying reform too far. When a thing like the checker game in the rear of a drug store is allowed to go on without interference, it seems like straining at a camel and swallowing a goat to stop a magic lantern show. No more wood will be received on subscription. Along with Hubbard squash and prize pumpkins, it is on the taboos list. What the Clarion needs now is a little of the stuff that talks. The amount we have now can't even whisper as loud as a bullfrog with the tonsillitis in a ten-below-zero climate. Christmas is drawing nigh, and we have got to have enough of the tainted stuff to buy a pair of cotton batting whiskers and rent a string of sleighbells. If only a few would call in and settle it would help some. Come on, boys. Let us show what Hickeyville can do.

A concerned man selling lead pencils was in our midst Wednesday last. This is getting to be quite a metropolitan place. Enos Hand Tuesday at West Hickeyville. A woodpecker has got the hardest face of any bird I ever see. Calling cards printed at the Clarion office.

There was quite a lot of excitement in this man's town last Wednesday. A slicker from the city passed a Canadian quarter on the wine clerk at the Golden Nugget. Old Man Purdy lost a large knot out of his wooden leg the other day, and he is now hiring out for a hitching post. He stands in front of Tibbitt's grocery store, and farmers coming into town hitch their horses through the knot hole in Purdy's leg. Hank Tumms has the dyspepsia at this writing. Had fresh pork for dinner Sunday and wasn't use to it.

Uncle Ezra Harkins has a new job as janitor of the Town Hall. Ezra has been in politics for a long time, and has earned this place.

## Good Resolutions Gone Wrong.

Christmas time is comin' round, comin' with a lead and bound. Haven't got much time to save. For those presents our folks crave. Member what I said last year. When the season of good cheer Had reduced my good old purse To a frazzlette or worse? Said I would begin in June. Thought it wouldn't be too soon To begin to save my dough. For my gifts, this year you know Somehow I forgot my pledge. Now we are upon the edge Of another gladsome time. When the merry Christmas chime Makes us count our cash for fun. Sooner said sleighbells in the air. Somehow I don't like that sound—Christmas time is comin' round.

Christmas time is comin' round. Snow will soon be on the ground. Let's see, what was I to do? Wasn't going to smoke or chew. Go to shows or spend a cent. For any sort of amusement. Had it all planned what I would Save up thus by bein' good. Know what all my folks would get From this Santa Claus, you bet. Know what I'd give Cousin Bill. And Brother and Sister Lil. Uncle Hank and Ma and Dad. Sounded splendid, for I had Figured on the finest things. But the gladsome season brings. But, somehow, the old long greens Never got within my hands. Feelin' grouchy, I'll be bound—Christmas is comin' round.

## Musings of a Pessimist.

A lot of windjammers get gabby about the people's rights when they don't know the people's rights from their lefts.

A lot of people with ability don't, while a lot of others with ability don't, about the only valid excuse for wearing long flowing whiskers is that it does away with the necessity of buying neckties.

Nobody has got a better opinion of himself than a man who has accumulated \$25,000 in a small town.

There is such a thing as being too clean nature. There are times when some of it should be washed off.

## QUERIES & ANSWERS

### Christmas Hosiery.

Would it be proper for a young man to give a lady a pair of hose as a Christmas gift? J. M.

All this sort of thing is a matter of taste, sometimes, one of rather bad taste. Slink hose are now far more in evidence in the dress of women than they have been for many years, perhaps more in evidence than they have ever been. Our mothers rarely wore them, and the dresses of our grandmothers were long. Our sisters and daughters and wives wear short skirts, and the shimmering webby stockings



## ARE BOWLEGS A GREATER MENACE TO NAVIGATION THAN KNOCKKNEES?

(They Are Debating This Subject in Washington.)

By John T. McCutcheon.

[Copyright, 1912, by John T. McCutcheon.]



This is a matter upon which authorities differ. Some expert facticians maintain that the former constitutes the greater menace owing to its greater circumvallation, while others contend that the latter is the more dangerous because its periphery, or greatest radius of action, is lower down and farther from the

angle of vision of passers-by. In dancing the tango, for example, it is a matter of common knowledge that the latter is more deadly than the former because its angle of incidence, or lateral sphere of action, is at the floor level, where, of course it constitutes a greater menace to navigation.



The relative demerits of the two depend largely upon the point of view. As seen from the north or south, the former is less appealing to one's sense of the Beautiful, but as seen from the east or west the Hogarthian lines happily are not so evident, whereas in the case of the latter, the assault upon our esthetic senses is equally appalling from all directions. There

is no reason why, with suitable traffic regulations, the two should not be perfectly coordinated, the concavity of the one entirely counteracting the convexity of the other, thus eliminating the menace to navigation in crowded streets. As yet, however, no one has proposed a solution of the problem as applied to crowded street cars.

are more noticeable and more designed to be noticed than formerly. Of course, this is but another way of saying that such a gift as you ask about would have caused no small scandal in the Richmond of twenty years ago, and none at all to-day. Whether the change is altogether for the better or not, you must judge for yourself.

## Sale of Lease.

May a lease be sold without the consent of the property owner?

SUBSCRIBER.  
It depends on circumstances. Often the remainder of a leasehold is of high value and recognized as such. In general, it may be said then the lease would be salable against the opposition of the property owner if the transfer to a new tenant did him no harm.

## Ford's Theatre.

What was the name of the theatre in which President Lincoln was killed? Is it standing now? R. N. V.

Ford's. The United States bought the place and established in the Apple Medical museum, said to be the finest in the world.

Mistletoe.  
Does mistletoe grow on hard or on soft wood trees? Is it ever seen on the pine? R. W. TAYLOR.

In England the plant is associated mainly with the oak and the apple. It grows on the black oak and the gum. We have not seen the mistletoe growing on the pine. It would be hard to discern amid the evergreen foliage of this tree.

## NEWS OF EASTERN SHORE

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
Onancock, Va., December 22.—A handsome monument of Virginia blue granite will be erected over the grave of Thomas W. Taylor this week by Chesapeake Lodge, A. F. & A. M. Mr. Taylor was the faithful secretary of the body for a number of years and was the oldest Mason on the Shore in point of membership.

The graduating class at the high school for the session of 1912-13 numbers twenty-five. The class has been recognized with the following officers: John E. Wise, of Onancock, president; Miss Charlotte L. Selby, of Greenbackville, vice-president; Miss Catherine Tignale, of Onancock, secretary; Miss Pearl Ross, of Oak Hill treasurer.

Miss Kate Powell who was burned to death at Backley and ninety-one years, was buried in the family burying ground Thursday, Rev. R. L. Shipley, of the M. P. Church, and Rev. Thorburn Clark, of the Baptist Church, conducting the service. Miss Powell was buried by the side of her mother, who died in 1884 at the age of 129 years. In the same graveyard are buried her father, who died at the age of eighty-two, and two sisters, one of whom lived to be seventy-seven and the other eighty-six. The last named was Mrs. Mary Snead, the widow of a Revolutionary soldier. At the time of her death she was one of five persons drawing a pension in the United States from a Revolutionary source. A few months ago Miss Powell had a handsome monument erected to mark the spot where she wished to be buried.

Half's Baptist Church was the scene of a very pretty marriage when Mrs. Milcha A. Hall became the bride of Benjamin G. Johnson, of March Market. The bride was given away by her brother, John H. Hall, Rev. L. B. Kirby was the officiating minister. The engagement of Rev. Curtis Fletcher, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. E.

Fletcher, of Onancock, and Miss Margaret Prestley, of San Antonio, Texas, has been announced, the marriage to be solemnized in January. Mr. Fletcher is rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, Temple, Texas. He is a graduate of the Virginia Theological Seminary, and his first rectorship was at Tazewell, Va.

Mrs. W. A. Warrington, after an illness of eight years, died Sunday evening at Belle Haven, aged fifty-eight years. Following services conducted by Rev. J. W. Newman, of the Baptist Church, assisted by Rev. A. L. Carson, of the M. E. Church, South, burial was made in the Belle Haven Cemetery. Surviving her are two daughters, Mrs. John H. Johnson, of Richmond, and Mrs. Thomas Savage, of Belle Haven.

Invitations have been issued by Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Savage to the marriage of their daughter, Alice Belote, to Alfred B. Gardner, at the Onley Methodist Episcopal Church, South, December 31, at 2 o'clock. Mrs. Mary Catherine Byrd died here to-day at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Otho Lee Parker, of apoplexy, aged eighty-seven years. Mrs. Byrd was a Miss Rowley, of Worcester County, Md. She married twice—first, Dr. John Savage, of Accomac County, then John Byrd, of Salisbury, Md. Mrs. Byrd was in sympathy with the South during the War between the States and was shot by a Federal soldier while he was sitting on the porch of his hotel in Salisbury, Md. Rev. J. C. Cornick conducted the funeral service in Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Sunday afternoon, and burial was made in the Onancock Cemetery. Mrs. Byrd left one daughter, Mrs. Otho L. Parker, of Onancock; one son, William, of Chicago, and a sister, Mrs. William Wilson, of Walkerton, Va. She belonged to the regime which is fast passing away.

The oyster shucking houses of Chincoteague are running both night and day to supply the Northern trade. The pure food inspector has declared the oysters in prime condition. There is also a great demand for clams, terrapin and mussels.

## DECREE OF DIVORCE GIVEN TO WIFE OF HAL CHASE

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
New York, December 22.—A decree of divorce in favor of Mrs. Nellie H. Chase from Hal Chase, the ball player, is recommended in a report filed in the Supreme Court by Alvin Katterer, as referee. Chase was his wife, but the referee found that his charges were insufficient, and that Mrs. Chase's counterclaim entitled her to a decree.

The chief witness for Mrs. Chase was the woman correspondent, The which he tendered a decree for Mrs. Chase, but Justice Greenbaum refused to confirm it because the testimony of the correspondent was unsupported. He directed that additional testimony be taken on that point. The present report includes the testimony of additional witnesses.

Offers Body for Sale.  
St. Louis, December 22.—"One fairly sound and healthy human body, now living, but to be delivered dead within forty-eight hours," was offered for sale in a typewritten letter received by a St. Louis paper. The letter was signed "Tired."

OF COURSE  
You use coal in your furnace. If you are satisfied with results, I am not talking to you. BUT if you want big results from little money, you are my audience.  
POCAHONTAS WASHED PEA  
tail of the slack and impurities washed out IS THE COAL. The price is a trifle more of one-half less than anthracite and the same as ordinary steam coal.  
\$4.50 per ton, delivered to you.  
Call us up and we will tell you who uses it.  
Ask Him or Try One Load. You Be the Judge  
Phone Madison 177.  
SAMUEL H. COTTELL & SON,  
Dealers in Coal and Wood.  
Our enthusiasm is based on testimony of consumers.

## SITUATION IS UNPRECEDENTED

After January 1 This Country and Russia Will Have No Trade Agreement.

Washington, December 22.—The termination of the Russian treaty, abrogated by Congress because of Russia's attitude upon the passport question, which becomes effective January 1, leaves the two nations, for the first time in eighty years, without an agreement to govern their trade relations, and presents a situation unprecedented.

Except as a consequence of war, the United States has never before undertaken to continue on friendly terms with another nation in the absence of any treaty relations after it has once enjoyed that connection. Naturally the great business interests of both countries have displayed the greatest anxiety to know upon what footing they may continue their operations after December 31. But as far as the Washington government is concerned, it has not been able to secure much enlightenment, and officials have been obliged to deny requests for special information from inquirers.

The result of many months' careful consideration of the subject has left the officials themselves in the dark, except as to the broad conclusion that the status quo, so far as it relates to trade, may remain unchanged, provided neither country does anything that might be regarded as discriminatory against the other.

It appears that the sole effect of the termination of the treaty to the United States, so far as can be now forecast, will be to deprive Russian consuls of the right to administer estates of Russians dying in America and to deal with disputes between the captains and crews of Russian vessels in American ports. The great volume of trade between the two countries, which, according to the figures of the Bureau of Trade Relations, aggregates this calendar year about \$50,000,000, is expected to remain unimpaired, though there are some indications that the Russian government contemplates some changes in its tariff laws that may unfavorably affect the importation of agricultural implements, machinery, hardware and perhaps cotton. So long as these increases are of general application, however, and are not directed specifically against American products, they cannot be regarded as discriminatory and as warranting retaliatory measures.

The National State and City Bank invites you to open an account, either subject to check or at 3% interest in its Savings Department. CAPITAL AND SURPLUS \$1,600,000.00